

2011 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Hertford County Rural Water

PWS ID# 04-46-045

February 23, 2012

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. Included are details about from where your water comes, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water and to providing you with this information, because informed customers are our best allies.

What EPA Wants You to Know: Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses; organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

When You Turn on Your Tap, Consider the Source: The water that is used by this system is groundwater from four wells. These wells are located along Highway 11, between Ahoskie and Murfreesboro.

Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Results: The North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Public Water Supply (PWS) Section, Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) conducted assessments for all drinking water sources across North Carolina. The purpose of the assessments was to determine the susceptibility of each drinking water source (well or surface water intake) to Potential Contaminant Sources (PCSs). The results of the assessment are available in SWAP Assessment Reports that include maps, background information and a relative susceptibility rating of Higher, Moderate or Lower. The relative susceptibility rating of each source for Hertford County Rural Water was determined by combining the contaminant rating (number and location of PCSs within the assessment area) and the inherent vulnerability rating (i.e., characteristics or existing conditions of the well or watershed and its delineated assessment area.). The assessment findings are summarized in the table below:

Susceptibility of Sources to Potential Contaminant Sources (PCSs)	
Source Name	Susceptibility Rating
Well # 1	Lower
Well #2	Lower
Well #3	Lower
Well #4	Lower

SUSCEPTABILITY RATING WAS ESTABLISHED ON MARCH 16, 2005

The complete SWAP Assessment report for Hertford County Rural Water may be viewed on the Web at: <http://www.deh.enr.state.nc.us/pws/swap> To obtain a printed copy of this report, please mail a written request to: Source Water Assessment Program – Report Request, 1634 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-1634, or email request to swap@ncmail.net. Please indicate your system name, PWSID, and provide your name, mailing address and phone number. If you have any questions about the SWAP report please contact the Source Water Assessment staff by phone at 919-715-2633. It is important to understand that a susceptibility rating of “higher” does not imply poor water quality, only the systems’ potential to become contaminated by PCS’s in the assessment area.

Hertford County Rural Water Has Met All Monitoring Requirements for 2011

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Hertford County Rural Water is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been setting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

What If I Have Any Questions or would like to become more involved: If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water, please contact Melvin Nichols at (252) 358-7867. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held at Office Building #1, on King Street, in the Commissioner's Room.

Water Quality Data Table of Detected Contaminants: We routinely monitor for over 150 contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected in the last round of sampling for the particular contaminant group. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. **Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 through December 31, 2011.** The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old.

Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

Important Drinking Water Definitions:

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/L) - One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (ug/L) - One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Maximum Contaminant Level - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - The "Goal"(MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Extra Note: MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

Inorganics Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	MCL Violation Y/N	Your Water	Range Low High	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Fluoride (ppm)	7/11	N	0.46	0.39 - 0.57	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

Unregulated Inorganics Contaminant

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	Your Water	Range Low High	Proposed MCL
Sulfate (ppm)	7/11	0	0	250

Lead and Copper Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	Your Water	# of sites found above the AL	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (ppm) (90 th percentile)	7/10	0.120	0	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb) (90% percentile)	7/10	ND	0	0	AL=.015	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

Disinfection By-Product Contaminants (7/11)

Contaminants (units)	MCL/M RDL Violation Y/N	Your Water (AVG)	Range Low High	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
TTHM (ppb) [Total Trihalomethanes]	N	15	12 - 19	N/A	80 or 100	By-product of drinking water Chlorination
HAA5 (ppb) [Total Haloacetic Acids]	N	2.2	1.6 - 3.1	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Secondary Contaminants, required by the NC Public Water Supply Section, are substances that affect the taste, odor, and/or color of drinking water. These aesthetic contaminants normally do not have any health effects and normally do not affect the safety of your water.

Water Characteristics Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	Your Water	Range Low/High	Secondary MCL
Sodium (ppm)	7/11	87.87	N/A	N/A
pH (units)	7/08	6.7	N/A	6.5 to 8.5
Iron (ppm)	7/11	0	0	0.30

Consumer Confidence Report Certification Form

Water System Name: Hertford County Rural Water System

PWS ID#: 04 - 46 - 045 Report Year: 2011 Population Served: 7,922

The community water system named above hereby confirms that all provisions under 40 CFR parts 141 and 142 requiring the development of, distribution of, and notification of a consumer confidence report have been executed. Further, the CWS certifies the information contained in the report is correct and consistent with the compliance monitoring data previously submitted to the primacy agency by their NC certified laboratory.

Certified by: Name: Melvin R. Nichols Title: Public Works Director

Signature: _____

Phone #: 252-358-7867 Date: 2-24-12

Check methods used and complete:

X Systems serving less than 10,000 persons but more than 500 persons must either distribute the CCR by mail or direct delivery. **OR** (mailing waiver option of the CCR itself)

 Notify by “direct means” that the CCR is not being mailed, but it will be published in what newspaper and when (attach copy of notice) Date Delivered: _____ and specify “direct means” of delivery of the notice:

 and the complete CCR was printed in the local newspaper(s)

X and a copy of the CCR was made available upon request

X “Good faith” efforts (in addition to the above required methods) were used to reach non-bill paying consumers such as industry employees, apartment tenants, etc. **Post in County office building, and water department.**

 advertising the availability of the CCR in news media (attach copy of announcement)

Note: For the mailing waiver option, the Direct Means allowed are a letter, a bill stuffer, a door hanger, or a postcard dedicated to the CCR. The notice may not be on the water bill itself as the only means of notification.